

# THE DESOTO COUNTY NEWS.

VOLUME VIII.

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## NEW COMPANY ORGANIZED

### IN THRIVING ARCADIA.

**Will Manufacture Cement Blocks for Building Material—Stockholders all Home Men—Latest Improved Machinery Ordered—Will be a Money Saver—Board Trade Acts in Matter.**

Realizing the necessity of securing the best material possible with which to re-build the burnt district, and at the same time get a material that is as nearly fire proof as possible, the Board of Trade took up the matter of organizing a stock company for manufacture of cement building blocks, with the result that stock has been subscribed and plans about perfected for the erection of one of the best, if not the best, plants in the state. This is a move in the right direction, and the business men of Arcadia are to be commended for the way in which they have taken hold of this matter.

There is no reason why those who are going to build should not get the best material obtainable and for the least money possible. The use of cement blocks as a building material has long since passed the experimental stage, it is recognized today as one of the best building materials on the market, surpassing brick in many ways; being stronger and having a greater fire resistance and are cheaper laid than brick. As for looks, there is no material on the market today that will make a more substantial or better looking building.

We are informed that the company has selected the best machine on the market and will turn out nothing but first class material.

This is a step in the right direction, hundreds of dollars will be saved in the matter of freight rates alone, as we have all the sand we need and of the finest quality and the only material necessary to "order off" for will be cement. It will give employment regularly to a number of men and all the money will be kept at home and put into the regular channels of business. The parties putting up buildings, being stockholders in the company, and getting the material at or near cost, should be able to save 25 per cent to 40 per cent in cost of construction.

## PUNTA GORDA.

Punta Gorda, Dec. 14.—Things in this section are beginning to liven up for Xmas. The streets are being cleaned and put in order, and everything to make pleasure for the tourist is being done.

Punta Gorda Lodge of Masons held an election of officers last Friday night, and the following gentlemen were selected to preside of the destiny of the lodge for the next term: S. L. Earnest, W. M.; F. W. Cooper, S. W.; Dr. D. N. McQueen, J. W.; C. A. Robinson, treasurer; J. Mizell, secretary. The lodge is in a flourishing condition.

The Woodmen of the World, true to their principles, have recently erected over the grave of their departed brother, L. T. Blockson, a handsome monument. This lodge is one of the most popular in the city, and has a large membership.

Punta Gorda can boast of one thing few towns in Florida, or any where else for that matter, can show, and that is a real live watermelon patch. Dick Windham is the happy owner of the patch, and he is bringing in some delicious melons these days.

The city council mean to keep the streets clean. They have given fair warning that any one throwing trash or other stuff in the streets will be dealt with severely. This is a good thing and cannot be too rigidly enforced.

The store room recently vacated by J. R. Elliott, has been rented by Geo. A. W. Gilchrist to a firm of Ocala, who will soon open a large store. It is said one of Arcadia's four business men is interested in the success of the store.

P. W. McAdow and Capt. Chas. G. Davis have each ordered an automobile. When these machines arrive Punta Gorda will be the proud possessor of four automobiles. A pretty good showing for a town this size.

R. B. Armstrong was in the city this week talking insurance to our people. Our big hostelry, Hotel Punta Gorda, will open tomorrow, under the management of Mr. Concanon. This gentleman has managed the hotel the past two seasons and has given universal satisfaction.

## POLK COUNTY AND THE FAIR.

We have been reliably informed that in about ten days the full list of awards at the recent state fair at Tampa, will be completed, and will be published in the Times-Union and in the Tampa papers. Polk county is waiting patiently to see what will be the outcome of the protest of her commissioner, against the injustice of the award made by the judges in the matter of county exhibits. The fair management cannot afford to sanction a manifest wrong. We hope and are almost ready to believe that credit will be given where it is justly due. But we shall see what we shall see.

## A NEEDED IMPROVEMENT.

### Alley Should Be Run Through to Oak Street.

We desire to call the attention of the city council to the fact that the alley running north and south in block 28 does not go through the block. It stops at the land line. This alley should be opened clear through the block to Oak street. This is necessary from a sanitary standpoint as well as for fire protection. It is the only block in the city in this condition and the city council should take steps at once to acquire title to the strip of land necessary to open this alley.

## MEETING THE DEMAND.

### Electric Light, Ice and Telephone Company Are Wide-Awake.

There are times when the strength or reliability of a person or corporation are tested to the utmost, and at such times they will either prove of value or go down. Such has been the test here in Arcadia, and the promoters of one of our leading industries have met the situation in a manner that has proved that they are alert to the interests of the city.

The Arcadia Electric Light, Ice and Telephone Company is laying a 200 wire underground cable along Main street through the business part of town. When this improvement is completed, no town in the state will have a better telephone service than Arcadia. Manager Scott is untiring in his efforts in behalf of his customers and says the best is none too good for them.

Ever since the disastrous fire, the company has been working with might and main to get the system in order. The fire destroyed much of their valuable property, but by hard work, they announce the service resumed.

## Notice.

To the People of DeSoto County.—I will not be a candidate for re-election to the legislature. I feel grateful to my friends, for the way in which they have supported me. I feel grateful to those who opposed me for not having opposed me as hard as they could have done. I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully,

ALBERT W. GILCHRIST.  
Punta Gorda, Fla., Dec. 1.

## For Gentlemen of Taste.

Go to the Arcadia Mercantile Co. and say Crockett shoes, say it plain, and you will get the best that money can buy sold in the leathers \$2.50, \$4 and \$5.

## POWERFUL MEETINGS.

### Elder H. B. Taylor Holding Services at Baptist Church.

Beginning last Sunday morning Elder H. B. Taylor, of Murray, Ky., has been preaching with great power twice each day in the meeting house of the Arcadia Baptist church. Some opposition has been stirred up by his pungent presentation of the truths of God's word; but lasting good seems to have been done. Rev. Taylor is terrific in the denunciation of sin, especially in church members; but he fortifies his statements so strongly with scripture that all the hurt ones can do is to howl. His series of sermons on God the Father, God the Son, God the Spirit, Satan and man end tonight (Friday). Sunday will be the last day of the meeting. Many visitors from the country have attended.

## WOODMEN MEET.

### Zolfo Camp Holds Election of Officers—Good Meeting.

The Woodmen of the World held a very interesting meeting Thursday night at which they elected officers to serve next year: The Woodmen have a strong organization here and have every prospect of growing stronger. The following will be their officers next year: Past Consul Commander—H. C. Sparkman. Consul Commander—J. I. Roberts. Adviser Lieutenant—A. J. Bardin. Banker—M. A. Gardner. Clerk—R. C. Fernald. Assistant Clerk—J. L. Huggins. Watchman—J. F. Barwick. Sentry—L. Z. Bardin. Managers—W. C. Crews, G. L. Crews, S. E. Roberts.—Zolfo Advertiser

## CHRISTMAS ORANGES

### ARE NOW BEING SHIPPED.

**Thousands of Boxes Fine Fruit Daily Leaving Wauchula—Packers Kept Busy With Christmas Orders.**

The orange packers are now in the midst of their holiday rush, and the Wauchula packing houses present busy scenes. Oranges are selling at about ten cents per box below the price packers hoped to receive, but there is an unlimited demand for the fruit at \$1.50 f. o. b.

Up to date, 81,231 boxes of oranges and grapefruit have been shipped from this station and it is now going out at the rate of about eight car loads per day.

Alexander & Baird are the heaviest shippers this season, and this week thirty men were employed in their packing houses. A. G. Smith has shipped as much or more fruit than usual and has twenty-two men employed in his two packing houses. He will also have considerable fruit to ship after the holidays. M. W. Crocker, the Florida representative of A. F. Young & Co., of New York, is handling a large amount of fruit here this season and has twelve men at work in the Stansfield & Beeson packing house. J. H. Maddox has the Townsend packing house and is shipping considerable fruit, as is T. G. Wilkinson, who has the Rainey packing house. That old reliable buyer, W. E. Scott, of C. Wilkinson & Sons, Philadelphia, has been in Wauchula through the season. He will probably secure as many as forty cars for his firm this season. Another important buyer this season is L. A. Taylor, representing Adam Muller, of New York. He has already bought about thirty carloads for his house and continues to buy freely.

There has been considerable complaint from the markets about fruit wasting, but our packers have received comparatively few complaints, as the fruit from this section has carried well. With cooler weather these few complaints will cease.

The quality of the fruit was never better. It is nicely colored, sweet and juicy and the buyers of Wauchula oranges will have nothing to complain of.

The crop is much larger than expected, and this station will ship more than one hundred thousand boxes of fruit this season.

## Dr. DePass Returns.

The Florida Annual Conference was in session at Ocala last week. The meeting was a great one, and proved of interest to all. Few changes have occurred in this district. Dr. DePass comes back to Arcadia, but we have a new presiding elder in Rev. J. W. Bigham, who was last year pastor at Tallahassee. Following is a list of the appointments for the district:

J. W. Bigham, presiding elder, Orlando, R. V. Atkinson, Oviedo, J. W. Austin, Sanford, D. B. Sweat, Maitland Mission, W. H. Steinmeyer, Apopka, T. S. Armstrong, Kissimmee, L. R. Jenkins, Oakland Circuit, H. F. Harris, Bartow, J. B. Mitchell, Lakeland, J. R. Cason, Mulberry Circuit, H. B. Frazee, Fort Meade and Homeland, F. Pixon, Bowling

## PROGRESSIVE ARCADIA

### NOW FORGING AHEAD

ators, etc., a course will be given them on time or at less than half price by The Georgia-Alabama Business College which has had 1,000 more calls for young people this year than it could fill. No entrance examinations are required. Free instruction is given in all English branches and positions are guaranteed in writing under a \$5,000 bank deposit. Apply at once to E. I. Martin, President, Macon, Ga.

## The Evil Eye.

The meaning of the evil eye, the "ophthalmos baskanos" of the Greeks, the "fascinare" of the Romans, was probably far more than a vulgar superstition. We find traces of it in almost every country, notably to this day among the canny Scots who inhabit the western isles of the sea, of "Uiva dark and Colonsay," of Skye and the Hebrides, and among the Turks, who distrust the evil eye of the stranger. But in old classical days the power seems chiefly to have been used for the purpose of grievously afflicting the live stock of disagreeable neighbors. So we find to this day in Ireland, parts of Scotland and the west of England where this belief is still prevalent. Certainly, in some form or other, mesmeric fascination by the eye has always been known. But that any one person, with no matter how evil an eye, should be able to charm frightened animals to any extent or number is ridiculous and not seriously to be entertained for one moment.—Chambers' Journal.

## Why a "Limited" Train?

The question why is a "limited train" so called has been propounded to a general passenger agent, who replies as follows:

First.—It is limited as to its time.

Second.—It is limited as to the number of cars and weight of train.

Third.—It is limited as to the class of cars.

Fourth.—It is limited as to the number and class of passengers permitted transportation thereon.

This last limit is adopted so that every passenger may have ample accommodation and not be crowded or interfered with by other passengers. The fact that an additional fare is charged on a limited train and, further, that nothing but first class tickets are accepted for passage tends to limit the class of travel which is carried.

## True in Every Language.

Tennyson once attended a dinner where G. L. Craik proposed "The Ladies." In doing so he recalled the cynical advice given by a brother Scot to his children: "Tak my advice and dinna marry for siller. You can borrow cheaper." Some time later Tennyson at his own table repeated Mr. Craik's story, but expressed the idea without attempting dialect. His son Hallam remarked, "Surely, father, Craik did not use those words." "No, he did not. But then, Craik is a Scotchman, and I am afraid to venture on repeating him exactly. However, it's almost as good in English as in Scotch, and it's tremendously true in both."

## To Remove a Tight Ring.

If you happen to get a ring on your finger that fits so tight you cannot remove it a very easy way to get it off is as follows: Take a piece of cord or wrapping thread and push one end of it under the ring. Then, beginning just above the ring, wind the cord very tightly round and round the finger clear up to the tip of the finger. Now take hold of the end of the cord that was slipped under the ring and unwind the cord. As the string unwinds the ring will be carried along with it and removed without any difficulty.

## A Bootless Attempt.

"Ma," said Tommy Twaddles, looking up from his reading of "Terry the Tenspot," "what is a bootless attempt?" "It's the sort your father makes to get in without my hearing him when he comes home late from the club," answered Ma Twaddles incisively. Pa doesn't stop to remove 'em at the foot of the stairs now. He knows it's no use.—Cleveland Leader.

## Generous.

"Is your husband a very generous man?" "Indeed he is. You remember those nice cigars I gave him for a birthday present? Well, he only smoked one and gave the rest to his friends."—Pick-Me-Up.

## A Long One.

"Mamma, is this the ship we're going over in?" "Yes, Willie." "Huh! You said it was an ocean greyhound. This ain't a greyhound. It's a dachshund."—Chicago Tribune.

## New Field For Dictionaryes.

Mrs. Ella Mentary writes to a department store for a dictionary of convenient size and scope to be used in bed. Her husband has recently taken to the use of long words in his sleep talk.—Lippincott's Magazine.

## A Scene of Haste and Hurry

**Greets One on All Sides—New Houses Going Up in Place of Burned Ones, Business Brisk, and Everybody Hopeful—A Grand New Town Will Arise From Ashes of Old One.**

Burned out! Yes, but not put out of business, is what you can hear on all sides in our busy, bustling town. We have been burned out, but with a characteristic determination every business man has gone to work to rebuild that which was destroyed by the fire.

Arcadia is now one of the most progressive towns in the state. Already twelve new buildings have been completed since the fire, and yet more material is arriving daily. There will be no let up until every building destroyed by the fire has been replaced by a handsome stone or brick one.

The city council has granted permits to build wooden buildings to those who desire, for one year, that they may be able to do business until the stone blocks can be manufactured by the Arcadia Sand Lime Brick Company. This company will be in operation in the near future, and all the material necessary for rebuilding the burned district will be available.

Arcadia has a bright future ahead, and no one feels discouraged. The individual losses were heavy, and of course were hard on some, but the general good that will come from the disaster, is a great consolation. Ere long Arcadia will take her stand among the leading South Florida cities, and good will certainly accrue from what now seems a disaster.

## Lighting London in 1715.

The question of the lighting of London was settled in simple fashion in 1715. The common council "repealed, annulled and made void all the former acts concerning the lighting of London" as a preliminary measure and then proceeded to enact that "all housekeepers whose house, door or gateway fronts or lies next to any street, lane or public passage or place of the said city shall in every dark night—that is, every night between the second night after each full moon—and the seventh night after each full moon—set or hang out one or more lights with sufficient cotton wicks that shall continue to burn from 6 o'clock at night till 11 o'clock of the same night on penalty of a shilling."

## Good Horse, Good Rider.

Judging from the following story which Arthur J. Smythe tells in his biography of William Terriss, it is evident that the practice of betting on horse races was among the great dislikes of the popular actor.

When any one asked him what horse he was going to back he would say:

"I'm going to back a little filly I've often backed before. I've never won anything on it; yet, strange to say, I've never lost a penny."

"Oh, whatever horse is that?" might have been the inquiry.

"A little filly called Common Sense, ridden by Tommy Let It Alone," was the invariable answer.—London Telegraph.

## Blanket Policy.

Pausing uncertainly before a desk in the big insurance office, the Hibernian visitor said to the clerk, "O! want to tek out a pawlicky."

"Life, fire or marine?" drawled the dapper clerk, with infinite sarcasm.

"All three, O!m thinkin'," retorted the applicant. "O!m goin' fer a stoker in th' navy."—Puck.

## Permanent Ideals.

To live in the presence of great truths and eternal laws, to be led by permanent ideals—that is what keeps a man patient when the world ignores him and calm and unspooled when the world praises him.—Balzac.

## A Surprise In Store.

Sweet Innocence—Papa says that you can't afford to marry. Gullible Youth—Oh, how absurd! Why, it only costs a few dollars! Sweet Innocence—Is that so? How foolish papa is! I'll tell him.

## Little Business.

Biggs—To think that a man should put an enemy in his mouth to steal away his breakfast! Original—Yes, and think what a hunt it must be for the enemy sometimes!